SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 63.91 crores was outstanding as on 30th June, 1993 for payment by NTC to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation towards supply of Cotton. Several references have been received for early settlement of these dues. Cotton is purchased by NTC Mills on credit terms. Hence, there are bound to be certain outstandings for payment at any given point of time. The outstanding dues of NTC are cleared, from time to time, upon generation of resources and receipt of funds for liquidity and towards reimbursement of cash losses.

Jobless textile workers in Gujarat

1033. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of workers rendered jobless in the country, especially in Gujarat State as a result of closure of the Textile Mills producing cotton and artificial fibre cloth;

(b) what are the steps proposed to be taken by Government to revive these mills; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to re-employ the presently jobless workers of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As on 31st May, 1993, 22 mill are reportedly closed in the country under the Official Lequidation of the Companies Act affecting 10,170 workers. Out of these 22 mills, 17 mills are situated in the State of Gujarat affecting the total work force of 39,965. Mills otherwise (temporarily) closed in the State of Gujarat due to variety of reasons are 17, affecting the work force of 29,065.

(b) Government have set up Nodal Agency/Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), to evolve and manage Rehabilitation Package in respect of sick/closed mills.

(c) While there is no Scheme for re-employing the jobless workers, a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund has been set up to provide interim relief for 3 years to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of textile mills.

Production of Janata Cloth

1034. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the objective of the Janata Cloth Scheme launched in 1976;

(b) whether it has succeeded in its objectives;

(c) if so, in what manner;

(d) what were the targets set for production of Janata Cloth during last three years;

(e) what has been the achievement made against these targets; and

(f) what has been the increase in the prices of Janata cloth i.e. Sarees and dhoties as against the index number of wholesale price of textile items during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The scheme was launched with the twin objectives of providing cloth at affordable prices to poor people and at the same time providing continuous and sustained employment to weavers.

(b) and (c) While the scheme has by and large achieved its stated objectives, production of low priced cloth has tended to deskill the handloom weavers.

(d) and (e) The targets and achievement in the production of janata cloth during the last three years are as under:—